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THE BAD BARGAIN; OR, THE WORLD ſet up to SALE.

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THE
BAD BARGAIN, &c.

I.

THE Devil, as the Scriptures ſhew,
Tempts ſinful mortals high and low;
And always acting well his part,
He ſuits his Bribes to every Heart:
See there the Prince of Darkneſs ſtands,
With Baits for ſouls in both his hands.

II.

To one he offers Empires whole,
And gives a Sceptre for a Soul;
To one he freely gives in barter
A Peerage, or a Star and Garter;
To one he pays polite attention,
And begs him juſt to take a Penſion.

III.

Some are ſo fir'd with love of Fame,
He bribes them by an empty name;
For Fame they toil, they preach, they write,
Give alms, or ſally forth and fight;
Prefer Man's praiſe to God's Salvation,
And ſell their Souls for Reputation.

IV.

But the great Gift, the mighty Bribe
Which Satan pours amid the Tribe,
Which thouſands ſeize with eager haſte,
And all deſire at leaſt to taſte,
Is——plodding Reader!—what d'ye think?
Alas!—'tis money—money—chink!

V.

Round the wide World the Tempter flies,
Preſents to view the glittering prize;
See how he goes from ſhore to ſhore,
And how the nations all adore:
Souls flock by thouſands to be ſold
Smit with the love of filthy Gold.

VI.

See at yon needy Tradesman's shop,
The universal Tempter stop;
"Wouldst thou" he cries "encrease thy Treasures,"
"Use lighter weights, and scantier measures,"
"Thus shalt thou thrive;" the Trader's willing,
And sells his Soul to get a Shilling.

VII.

Next Satan to a Farmer hies,
"I scorn to cheat," the Farmer cries;
Yet his whole heart on Wealth was bent,
And so the Devil was content;
Now markets rise and riches roll,
And Satan quite secures his soul.

VIII.

Mark next yon cheerful youth so jolly,
So fond of laughter and of folly;
He hates a stingy griping Fellow,
But gets each day a little mellow;
To Satan too he sells his soul
In barter for a flowing bowl.

IX.

But mark again yon Laſs a ſpinning,
See now the Tempter is beginning:
Some Buck preſents a top-knot nice,
She grants her Virtue as the price;
Yields to the Beau ſo ſmart and civil,
Her Soul ſhe renders to the Devil.

X.

Thus Satan tries each different State,
With mighty Bribes he tempts the Great,
The Poor with equal Force he plies,
But wins them with an humbler Prize;
Has gentle Arts for young Beginners,
And fouler Sins for older Sinners.

XI.

Oft too he cheats our mortal eyes,
For Satan father is of lies;
A thouſand ſwindling tricks he plays us,
And promiſes but never pays us;
Thus we poor fools are ſtrangely caught,
And find we've ſold our ſouls for nought.

XII.

Nay oft, with quite a juggler's art,
He bids the proffer'd gift depart;
Sets some gay joy before our face,
Then claps a trouble in it's place;
Sends some huge loss instead of gain,
And conjures pleasure into pain.

XIII.

Be wise then, oh, ye worldly tribe,
Nor sell your conscience for a Bribe;
When Satan tempts you to begin,
Resist him, and refuse to Sin:
Bad is their Bargain on the whole,
Who gain the world and lose a Soul.

THE END.

On the 1st of October, 1795, were published,

Harveſt Home.—Two Farmers, Part I.—The Honeſt Miller, a Ballad.

On the 1st of November,

The Parable of the Vineyard.—The Two Farmers, Part II. —The Sorrows of Yamba, a Ballad.

On the 1st of December,

The Troubles of Life.—Sorrowful Sam.—Merry Chriſt. mas, a Carol.

On the 1st of January, 1796.

New Thoughts on the New Year.—The Hiſtory of Mary Wood, the Houſemaid.—Robert and Richard, a Ballad.

On the 1st of February,

The Touchſtone; or, the Way to know a good Chriſtian. —The Apprentice turned Maſter; or, the Two Shoemakers, Part II.—The Story of Sinful Sally. Told by herſelf, a Ballad.

On the 1st of March,

Oneſimus; or, the Run-away Servant converted.—Idle Jack Brown; or, the Two Shoemakers, Part III.—Shopkeeper, Part I.

On the 1st of April,

Converſion of St. Paul.—Jack Brown in Priſon; or, the Two Shoemakers, Part IV.—Shopkeeper, Part II.

On the 1st of May,

The General Reſurrection, Part I.—The Hiſtory of Charles Jones the Footman, written by Himſelf.—The Hackney Coachman; or, the Way to get a Good Fare, a Ballad.

On the 1st of June,

Carrying Religion into the Common Buſineſs of Life.—The Cheapſide Apprentice.—The Election Song, a Ballad.

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